

Reconnect Haverhill to Cambridge by Rail



Reopening the railway between Haverhill and Cambridge will create an economic stimulus and improve transport links to expanding employment in Cambridgeshire and the national rail network

Please sign the petition to support the reopening of the railway from Haverhill to Cambridge at railhaverhill.org.uk/petition

Why re-open the railway?

With a population of 28,000, Haverhill is one of the largest towns in the country unconnected to the railway network. Despite the original railway closing in 1967, when the population was under 12,000, the town has grown appreciably. Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Transport Plan states that 4,260 new homes are proposed at Haverhill with the population likely to grow to around 38,000 by 2031. Many residents in this area will use the corridor A1307 through Cambridgeshire to access jobs and services, including in Cambridge and at the Science Parks and innovation centres to the south east of the city such as Granta Park and the Babraham Research Campus. Each day they face a 35-45 minute journey at best on the congested, single lane A1307. By bus this stretches to at least an hour. Studies show that a rail link to Cambridge station would be under 30 minutes; a prized alternative,

reconnecting a comparatively isolated community and its economy with its hinterland, and the national railway network too.

Housing shortage around Cambridge is severe hence more people looking afield to cheaper places like Haverhill, but there is no alternative transport to the congested road, no fast rail link. Around Cambridge, a new station serving the Science Park is due to open in 2015 and a mere 5 minutes beyond the main station. Plans exist to open a station at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Restoring the railway link from Wisbech is also being actively investigated by government.

In Haverhill and surrounding towns, there is growing support for a new rail link:

- 12,000 people signed a petition in support of the scheme between 2000 and 2002
- A market research survey in 2004 showed 73.4% supported the scheme

Is a railway feasible?

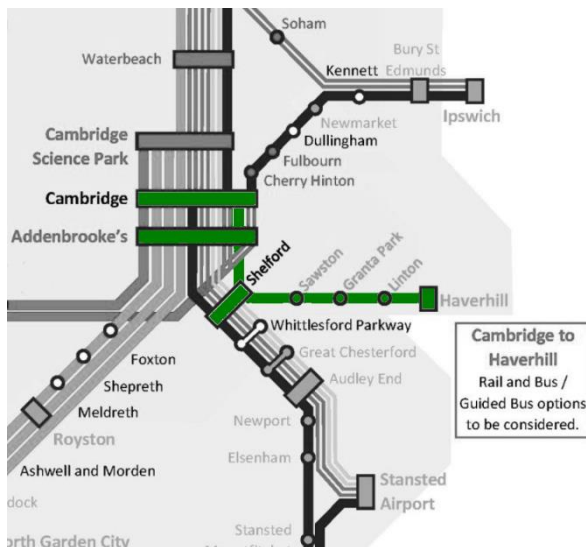
Much of the original track bed still exists although not the Haverhill station site. A feasibility study carried out in 1999 by railway engineers showed that the railway could be rebuilt. The line would generally follow the original route but with some local diversions where development has blocked the line. A connection to the London Liverpool St main line at Shelford is still possible.

An outline specification for the new railway line would include:

- Link to the existing railway south of Cambridge
- Possible stations at Granta Park, Linton and Haverhill
- Electrification
- An hourly service with additional trains in peak periods
- Trains integrated with local buses

Local Transport Plan

The railway is identified in the Cambridgeshire County Council Local Transport Plan with a guided bus option also to be considered.



What happens next

To progress the scheme, a more detailed feasibility study is required to develop both the engineering requirements and establish the business case.

Official Supporters

railfuture



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or sign the petition below and post it to:

The Secretary, Mr D.K. Edwards, 13 Longleaf Drive, Braintree CM7 1XS

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Signature:	

Petition forms can be requested from the above address.

Leaflet funded by Railfuture

www.railfuture.org.uk/East+Anglia+Haverhill

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